

COVID-19 POLICY FOR CENTERS

The Executive Commissioner of the Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) adopts on an emergency basis in Title 26 Texas Administrative Code, Chapter 745 Licensing, new §745.10003, concerning an emergency rule with ongoing requirements for day care operations in response to COVID-19.

ARRIVAL & DISMISSAL PROCEDURE

Parents dropping off students at Grace Lutheran School will form a single line along the right curb in the horseshoe driveway in front of the school. Please pull forward to the awning (first cone) to make room for other cars along the curb and pay attention to all signs, cones, and signals made by the staff members. Parents will bring students to the front entrance where a GLS staff member will perform their daily health check. Students will then be escorted to their classroom by a GLS staff member. Dismissal will follow the same procedure with parents remaining in their vehicles until a staff member brings their child to them.

EXCLUSION POLICY

Students and staff must remain out of the center if they have had:

- (1) Close contact in the last 14 days with someone who has a confirmed diagnosis of COVID-19, someone who is under investigation for COVID19, or someone who is ill with a respiratory illness; or
- (2) Fever at or above 100 degrees, or signs or symptoms of a respiratory infection, such as cough, shortness of breath, or sore throat; or
- (3) International travel within the last 14 days to countries with ongoing community transmission. For updated information on affected countries visit: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/map-and-travelnotices.html>

CLOSE CONTACT: is defined by the CDC as (1) being within approximately 6 feet (2 meters) of a COVID-19 case for 15 minutes or more and can occur while caring for, living with, visiting, or sharing a health care waiting area or room with a COVID-19 case, or (2) having direct contact with infectious secretions of a COVID-19 case (e.g., being coughed on). Considerations when assessing close contact include the duration of exposure and the clinical symptoms of the person with COVID-19.

HEALTH CHECK AND ILLNESS POLICY – COVID-19 ILLNESS:

During the COVID-19 pandemic period, our Health Check & Illness Policy (both COVID and Non-COVID provisions) applies to all staff, children and their household members. The final decision on whether to exclude an individual from the program due to illness will be made by the child care center.

For your child's comfort, and to reduce the risk of contagion, we ask that children be picked up within 1 hour of notification of illness. Until then, your child will be kept comfortable and will continue to be observed for symptoms. For a full copy of the Health Check and Illness Policy, please ask your center leadership team.

DAILY HEALTH CHECK:

All staff, families, children and their household members must conduct a daily health check **before** coming to the center. A daily health check will also be performed upon arrival. Should you or any household member have any of the following COVID-19-like symptoms **during the preceding 72 hours****, we ask you to remain out of the center and notify the center.

- Cough
- Sore Throat
- Muscle Aches
- Difficulty Breathing
- New Loss of Taste or Smell
- Fever at or above the threshold temperature of **100° F*** (or would have, but for the use of fever-reducing medicine).*

SYMPTOMS—CLEARANCE TO RETURN:

Consistent with our COVID-19 Policy, a symptomatic household will be required to remain out of the center for 14 days, unless clearance to return is provided. Where a medical provider assesses the symptomatic individual and can determine (i) that there is an alternate diagnosis causing the COVID-like symptoms (e.g., an ear infection is causing a fever), or (ii) the individual has tested negative, has been fever-free for at least 48 hours (without the use of fever-reducing medicines) and symptoms are resolving, the individual will be cleared to return and the (14) day exclusion period will not apply. In the case of clearance for an alternate diagnosis, if the medical provider cannot affirmatively identify an alternate diagnosis which causes the presenting symptoms, any unspecified diagnosis is presumed to be COVID, and the exclusion will continue. Clearance to return cannot be provided by a family member.

MASK/FACE COVERING POLICY – COVID-19

CAREGIVERS AND FAMILIES MUST COMPLY WITH STATE AND LOCAL REGULATIONS REGARDING MASKS/FACE COVERINGS

Center-based Back-Up Care:

Caregivers: Caregivers must wear masks/face coverings at all times when caring for students, except during a break or while eating (in each case, provided proper social distancing can be maintained).

Children: This guidance does **NOT** apply to children 5 or under, or to those who are advised not to wear a face covering for other health reasons. Parents should consult with their child's health care provider if necessary (e.g., for children with certain conditions such as asthma), to determine if an individual child age 5 years and older is able to safely and consistently wear a cloth face covering while in care.